Complaints against Unregistered/Unauthorized agents are referred to the concerned State police authorities for investigation and action under the law. Concerned Protector of Emigrants (POEs) also is instructed to initiate due action. During the last five years, the number of complaints received in case of illegal/Unauthorized Recruiting Agencies were 53 during 2005, 78 during 2006, 40 during 2007, 93 during 2008 and 63 during 2009 (upto June). During 2008 and 2009 (upto June), 56 and 09 prosecution sanctions were issued respectively.

The Foreign Employers (FEs) who are found to be harassing the Indian Workers are placed in the Prior Approval Category. As on today, 355 FEs are placed under Prior Approval Category List.

Registration of Indian Students Abroad

3565. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN :
SHRI N.K. SINGH :
Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to initiate steps to enforce a compulsory registration regime for the Indian studetns studying abroad as against the existing voluntary registration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Embassies in the foreign countries have been asked to open websites to streamline the registration process; and

(d) if so, the time by which the process of compulsory registration of Indian students studying abroad would be started?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has undertaken an 'E-Governance in Emigration' project to transform the process of mobility of Indian workers and students going abroad into a simple, orderly and transparent process through an electronic platform.

As part of this project the details of Indian students going overseas for education will also be registered. This will help establish a data base of Indian students going abroad.

The project is being implemented with the technical assistance of the National Institute of Smart Government and is targeted for completion by the end of 2010.

Norms for Recruitings Agents

3566. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently tightened norms for recruiting agents to check human trafficking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the strategies have been formulated to effectively monitor the role of recruiting agents in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has notified the Emigration (Amendment) Rules, 2009 *w.e.f* July, 2009 which provide for :

(i) Increase in the amount of security to be deposited by the recruiting agent from Rs. 3-10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh.

(ii) Increase in application fee for registration certificate from Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 25,000/-.

(iii) The application for registration now will have to be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's bachelor's degree or two years diploma or equivalent, balance sheet of the previous financial year or a statement of accounts showing the assets and liabilities of the applicant, income tax returns for the last three consecutive yearss and an affidavit executed by the applicant before a Magistrate or Notary Public.

(iv) A recruiting agent can now collect services charges from the worker equivalent to his wages for 45 days as under the employment contract, subject to a maximum of Rs. 20,000/-. However, he must issue a receipt to the worker for the amount collected.

(v) The recruiting agents have been entrusted with specific duties and responsibilities with a view to safeguard the interest of the emigrant worker. They will also have to maintain certain minimum basic facilities. They will be required to issue only such advertisements that are genuine and factually correct and shall refrain from any inducement or misrepresentation in this regard. They shall also file copies of all advertisements to the Protector General of Emigrants immediately after their publication or release.

(c) and (d) The Government proposes to enact a new Emigration Law. The proposed legislation is aimed at transforming emigration into a simple, transparent, efficient and humane economic process, facilitate legal migration, prevent illegal migration and human smuggling, enable ethical recritment practices, enhance protection and welfare of emigrants, and manage student mobility and matters connected therewith. The draft Bill is being finalised through inter-ministerial consultations for obtaining cabinet approval.

The Government is also implementing an e-governance project which will keep track of the recruitment for overseas employment on real-time basis and prevent/detectation any malpractices by unscrupulous recruiting agents.

Ministry has also assigned a task to Public Affairs Foundation, Bangalore, for preparation of report card on Recruiting Agents, develop a rating system for the recruiting agents and prepare the blueprint for setting of an apex body for the recruiting agents in the country.

University for PIOs

3567. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI :
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state: